

development. In honor of his hard work and dedication the street in the neighborhood bares his name.

Percy joined Jackson Street Missionary Baptist Church in 1956 where he remained a faithful and dedicated member of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Percy Strothers for his dedication and loyalty to Vicksburg, Mississippi and his desire to always strive for more.

#### RECOGNIZING TED OGLESBY

#### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of longtime Gainesville journalist Ted Oglesby, who served his country and our hometown throughout most of his 84 years.

Mr. Oglesby arrived in Gainesville, GA in 1958 out of the Air Force Reserves and began working for WDUN radio, a well-known station in northeast Georgia. He soon left to become sole owner and chief editor at the Gainesville Tribune.

In 1968, he returned to military service and spent a year in Vietnam. During this time, Ted contributed to many missions that led him across the globe. He retired in 1981 as a Colonel in the Air Force, having received a Bronze Star for his meritorious service to our nation.

After returning to civilian life in Gainesville, Mr. Oglesby again took up the pen and pad as a reporter. His work in politics earned him many Georgia Press Awards, and he retired as the Editorial Editor of the Gainesville Times.

As the founder and longest serving chairman of the Small Business Development Center, Mr. Oglesby was well respected throughout his community. He hosted a Travel Club for the Georgia Retired Teachers association and served as a Life Deacon at Lakewood Baptist Church. He was honored by the Gainesville Kiwanis and was presented the Hixson Award for his outstanding community service, which spanned five decades.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ted Oglesby, a man whose ambition was to be a "servant to others." This remarkable man loved his country and his community and served them both diligently.

#### HONORING COLONEL HUGH HANLON

#### HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Hugh Hanlon, who is retiring after 30 years of service to our county in the United States Air Force.

Colonel Hanlon graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1987, and earned a Masters of Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University in 1998. He served for 30 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, where he

served as the Chief of CENTCOM strategy for the Air Force Checkmate Division and, among other assignments, as the Chief of Long Range Strategy during the Afghanistan War. During his 30 year career, Colonel Hanlon also served as an instructor pilot, flight examiner, operations officer, squadron commander, and Vice Wing Commander. During those years, he served in Hawaii, Japan, and Korea, prior to his current position as the Commander of Corps of Cadets Detachment 805 at Texas A&M University.

Over his three decade military career, Colonel Hanlon was awarded 12 awards and badges, including the National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, and Joint Meritorious Unit Award. He further distinguished his service by earning the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, a Medal given to those who display acts of heroism or meritorious service. In addition, Colonel Hanlon earned the Legion of Merit Award, given to those who display exceptionally meritorious conduct, and the Defense Superior Service Medal, awarded to those in the Department of Defense who display superior meritorious service in positions of significant responsibility.

Colonel Hanlon has demonstrated his gifted skills as a pilot through over 3,500 flight hours, with 325 of those hours being in combat. He reached the rank of Command Pilot, and flew four different military aircraft during his service, including the T-37, T-38, A-10 and F-16.

I also would like to honor Colonel Hanlon for his service to the Texas A&M University. For nearly four years, he has served as the Commander of Detachment 805 of the Corps of Cadets, as well as teaching at the University as a Professor of Aerospace Studies. He has embodied the core values at Texas A&M, especially the core values of excellence and selfless-service.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's history is grounded in the efforts of our men and women who have served in uniform. Those who protected and defended the United States of America deserve our highest praise and thanks. We also wish them Godspeed as they transition to the next chapter in their lives.

Today, I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the United States Capitol to honor the many contributions of Colonel Hugh Hanlon. As I close, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

#### HONORING RILEY RICE

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Riley Rice.

Mr. Rice has extensive experience in the field of education and municipal government.

Mr. Rice was born on August 8, 1943, the fifth child of the late Robert Rice, a World War I Veteran and sharecropper, and Katie Rice, a housewife.

Mr. Rice is a resident of Indianola, Mississippi, and was educated in the former

Indianola Public School District. He is a 1963 graduate of Gentry High School; 1967 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science Education; 1992 graduate of Delta State University with a Master's in High School Counseling; and further studies in Political Science at Mississippi State University.

Along with Mr. Rice's background in education, he worked 35 years in the Sunflower County School District. He served 16 years on the Indianola Board of Aldermen and 8 years as Vice-Mayor.

Mr. Rice participated in the Civil Rights Movement in 1965. He was jailed for attending the former Seymour Library and for a sit-in at the Traveler's Inn Restaurant. He participated in many marches throughout Sunflower County and he marched with Fannie Lou Hamer and Charles Scattergood.

Presently, Mr. Rice serves as Supervisor of Sunflower County, District 2; is a member of the P16 Council; a member of the Cares Mentoring Program, and Vice President of the Sunflower County Branch 5333 of the NAACP.

Lastly, Mr. Rice is a devoted Christian and an ordained Deacon at Traveler's Rest M.B. Church, where he serves as Chairman of the Deacon Board and Superintendent of the Sunday School. The Pastor of Traveler's Rest M.B. Church is Rev. T.L. Martin, Jr. of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Riley Rice for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

#### HONORING CLAY PHILLIPS'S LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of City Manager Clay Phillips of Coppell, Texas. On March 31, 2017, Mr. Phillips will retire from public service after serving eight years as City Manager of Coppell and over 35 years of service in municipal government.

Clay Phillips began his public service career with the Town of Addison in 1981 working as a firefighter and paramedic. He left the Town of Addison after obtaining the rank of Deputy Fire Chief to assume the position of Fire Chief for the City of Coppell. Since 1991, Clay has served as the Fire Chief, Assistant City Manager, and Deputy City Manager and in 2008, Clay was promoted to the role of City Manager.

Clay attended the University of North Texas where he received his Bachelor of Science with Honors in Emergency Administration and Planning along with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. In 2011, Clay was named the 2011 MPA Alumnus of the Year. Clay has served as president of the North Central Texas City Managers' Association and he serves on the Board of Directors of the North Texas Commission.

During his career as City Manager in Coppell, Clay has promoted regionalism amongst area cities and helped bring about a number of cooperative efforts, including the North Texas Emergency Communications

Center. Working with city staff, community, and the city council, he led many projects over the years that resulted in major improvements to the city's parks, facilities, and infrastructure. One of Clay's favorite projects was the redevelopment of Old Town Coppell, which has blossomed into a unique, mixed-use area, which embraces the city's history along with bringing together businesses and residents.

Clay is a lifetime resident of Coppell. In 1978, he graduated from Coppell High School where he received Valedictorian honors. Most recently, Clay was recognized as the Class of 2004 Distinguished Alumni. Clay has served on numerous professional and philanthropic organizations throughout North Texas and Coppell including the first Board of Directors of the Coppell ISD Education Foundation and Coppell ISD Strategic Planning Initiative. Clay is an active member of his church where he serves as elder and in the music ministry. Clay and his wife, Terry, are proud parents to two children and one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing Clay Phillips many years of continued success and congratulations as we celebrate his service to the City of Coppell.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATALIE GELB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Natalie Gelb, Executive Director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority works to preserve, conserve, and educate the public about the historical, cultural, economic, and natural resources of Lackawanna County. On March 30, Natalie will officially retire from her ED position after twelve years of outstanding service.

A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Natalie attended Scranton Central High School and then the University of Maryland, where she graduated magna cum laude with degrees in English and history. Natalie joined the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in 2004.

As Executive Director of the Authority, Natalie rehabilitated the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and worked to foster closer relationships with other area organizations and institutions. The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is part of a unique, seventy-mile, multi-purpose trail system. The trail begins at the confluence of the Lackawanna and Susquehanna Rivers in Pittston and continues north where it connects with the Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail. When Natalie began her work in 2004, the trail system was underdeveloped. But under her leadership, it was transformed into a highly utilized attraction in Lackawanna County, now drawing over 300,000 visits a year.

In addition to serving as Heritage Valley Authority's Executive Director, Natalie has compiled an impressive personal record of service to others and her community. She currently serves on the boards of the Jewish Family Service, the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, and the NEPA Health Care Foun-

ation. She is a member of the President's Advisory Council of Keystone College, Living Independently for Elders (LIFE), the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and the Steering Committee for Women in Philanthropy.

It is an honor to recognize Natalie for all that she has done while leading the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. I wish her the best in retirement.

#### TAR SANDS TAX LOOPHOLE ELIMINATION ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act. This bill will ensure that oil companies can no longer sidestep paying their fair share into the dedicated trust fund created so that, in the event of an oil spill, there are resources immediately available for cleanup.

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, authorized in 1990, ensures we have funding available to pay for the immediate costs of cleaning up oil spills. It is funded by an eight cents per barrel excise tax on crude oil and petroleum products. In 2011, however, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a misguided decision stating that oil derived from tar sands is not considered crude oil and is therefore currently exempt from the tax that pays into the Fund.

Oil that comes from tar sands is a thick, sticky form of crude oil that can be more difficult and costly to clean up than other types of crude. In 2010, for example, a pipeline owned and operated by a Canadian company, Enbridge, spilled more than 850,000 gallons of tar sands oil into a waterway that flows into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. That has been one of the largest and costliest pipeline spills in American history, with the price tag now at \$1.2 billion dollars.

While I do not support the development of tar sands—doing so is environmentally destructive and carbon-intensive, we should not keep in place a loophole that lets big oil companies off the hook for cleaning up their tar sands spills. The Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act would add oil derived from tar sands and oil shale to the definition of crude oil, closing the current loophole and ensuring that oil companies pay into the fund. Oil companies already get billions of dollars in taxpayer-based subsidies, and this bill will ensure they will not be given an additional free ride on tar sands and any future oil shale development.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE CLEMENCY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Home Rule Clemency Act, a bill that would give the District of Columbia exclusive authority, like the

states and territories, to grant clemency to offenders prosecuted under its local laws.

While District law appears to give the mayor authority to grant clemency (D.C. Code 1–301.76), it is currently the opinion of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that the president, and not the mayor, has the authority to issue clemency for most local offenses prosecuted under D.C. law, particularly felonies prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney in the D.C. Superior Court. Under current practice, clemency petitions for D.C. convictions, like federal convictions, are submitted to the DOJ for the president's consideration.

Whether or not the DOJ's view is correct, my bill would remove all doubt that the District, and not the president, has the authority to issue executive clemency for local offenses. The District, like states and territories, should have full control of its local criminal justice system, the most basic responsibility of local government. Since the D.C. Council has the authority to enact local laws, District officials are in the best position to grant clemency for local law convictions. My bill would provide all clemency authority not currently reserved to the Mayor under D.C. Code 1–301.76 to the District government and would give D.C. the discretion to establish its own clemency system.

This bill is an important step in establishing further autonomy for the District in its own local affairs. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING EDDIE J. FAIR, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Eddie J. Fair, Jr. who is a product of Ruleville, MS.

At an early age Mr. Eddie J. Fair, Jr. learned the importance of education, while attending and graduating from Ruleville Central High School. He also learned the meaning of hard work, as he was the son of a sharecropper, who worked for \$3.00 a day. With those principles embedded in his soul, Mr. Fair went on to become a proud graduate of Jackson State University. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration. He quickly learned that public service was his niche during the five years he spent working in the office of Student Affairs of his alma mater. Mr. Fair then went on to work some 20 plus years in the automobile business, which he mastered in and out. From selling cars to becoming a finance manager then the promotion to finance director, he knew he wanted to be a helping hand to his community. In 2003, Mr. Eddie Fair was the first elected African American Tax Collector in Hinds County (the largest county in the state of Mississippi). He is currently serving in his third term and looks forward to many more years of serving the citizens of Hinds County. This small-town country boy believes that "No dreamer is ever too small and no dream is ever too big!" This is the very reason that he continues his efforts to remain involved with community issues and educates the public with frequent informational sessions.